

**In the Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An organic electroluminescent device, comprising:

a substrate;

electrodes including a first electrode formed on the substrate, and a second electrode disposed to be spaced from the first electrode;

a function layer formed between the electrodes ~~and including a luminous layer~~, said function layer comprising a carrier injection layer, a carrier transport layer and a luminous layer; and

a buffer layer included in the second electrode and disposed to be spaced from the function layer, said buffer layer having a density lower than the density of said luminous layer and said second electrode.

2. (original) The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer layer is formed in a distance of 20 nm or less from an upper end surface of the function layer.

3. (original) The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer layer contains an oxide.

4. (original) The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer layer contains aluminum oxide.

5. (currently amended) The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a layer ~~disposed adjacently to~~ contiguous with the function layer and containing any of an alkaline metal element and an alkaline earth metal element.

6. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing an organic electroluminescent device, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a first electrode on a substrate;

forming, on the first electrode, a function layer ~~including a luminous layer,~~  
said function layer comprising a carrier injection layer, a carrier transport layer  
and a luminous layer;

forming a second electrode above the luminous layer; and

forming a buffer layer in a distance of a predetermined value or less from an upper end surface of the function layer, said buffer layer having a density lower than the density of said luminous layer and said second electrode.

7. (original) The method for manufacturing an organic electroluminescent device according to claim 6, wherein the buffer layer contains an oxide, and the step of forming a buffer layer includes any of a step of oxidizing the second electrode and a step of depositing the oxide thereon.

8. (original) The method for manufacturing an organic electroluminescent device according to claim 6, wherein the buffer layer contains aluminum oxide.

9. (currently amended) The method for manufacturing an organic electroluminescent device according to claim 6, further comprising the step of: depositing a layer containing any of an alkaline metal element and an alkaline earth metal element ~~adjacent to~~ contiguous with the function layer.

10. (currently amended) An organic electroluminescent display apparatus including a plurality of organic electroluminescent devices formed on a substrate, wherein the organic electroluminescent device includes:

electrodes including a first electrode adjacent to the substrate and a second electrode disposed to be spaced from the first electrode;

a function layer formed between the electrodes ~~and including a luminous layer,~~ said function layer comprising a carrier injection layer, a carrier transport layer and a luminous layer; and

a buffer layer included in the second electrode and disposed to be spaced from the function layer, said buffer layer having a density lower than the density of said luminous layer and said second electrode.

11. (original) The organic electroluminescent display apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the buffer layer is formed in a distance of 20 nm or less from an upper end surface of the function layer.

12. (original) The organic electroluminescent display apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the buffer layer contains an oxide.

13. (original) The organic electroluminescent display apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the buffer layer contains aluminum oxide.

14. (currently amended) The organic electroluminescent display apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

a layer ~~disposed between the luminous layer and the second electrode~~  
contiguous with the function layer and containing any of an alkaline metal  
element and an alkaline earth metal element.